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PAGE 01 MANILA 02064 01 OF 03 160738Z
ACTION INR-00

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 EVG-00 EAP-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7848
INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD/PA//
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MANILA 002064

STATE FOR EAP/RSP RDEVILLAFRANCA; EAP/P; EAP/PD LSEVER;
CSTROMME; EAP/PIMBS, INR/R/MR; CINCPAC PA ADVISOR
SSTAHL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, RP

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION MIDDLE EAST-POWELL MISSION,
VENEZUELA, U.S. TROOPS IN RP

MIDDLE EAST

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02064 01 OF 03 160738Z
"ARROGANCE OF ISRAEL"

ART BORJAL WROTE IN HIS COLUMN IN THE INDEPENDENT
"PHILIPPINE STAR" (04/16): "PERHAPS THERE IS NO
COUNTRY AS UNPOPULAR TODAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS
AS ISRAEL. U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH'S BIAS TOWARD ISRAEL
IS OBVIOUS. WITH AN ATTITUDE AS THAT SHOWN BY BUSH,
HOW CAN HE BROKER PEACE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND
PALESTINIANS? ONE WONDERS WHAT PREVIOUS AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ENLIGHTENED ONES, WOULD HAVE
DONE TO PREVENT THE CHAOS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO
ESCALATE."

"DOING HIS HOMEWORK"

IN THE INDEPENDENT "MANILA TIMES" (04/16), INDAY ESPINA-

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
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VARONA WROTE IN HER COLUMN: "THE WORD FROM WASHINGTON IS THAT GEORGIE, THE TEXAN PRINCEING WHO SO BADLY YEARNs TO BE THE MAN DAD WANTS HIM TO BE, IS FINALLY HITTING THE BOOKS AND DOING HIS HOMEWORK. ABOUT TIME. HALF A DOZEN CHIEFS OF STATES HAVE JUST TOLD COLIN POWELL THE WORLD IS NOT BEHOVED TO BEHAVE LIKE PATRIOTIC AMERICANS. .LET US GIVE THANKS THAT GEORGIE IS FINALLY REALIZING THAT RESPECT FROM EQUALS MAY BE MORE REWARDING THAN THE GROVELING THAT MERELY MASKS SMIRKS AND DIRTY FINGERS, OR THE CONDESCENDING PRATTLE DISHED OUT BY SHIFTY-EYED FATHER FIGURES LIKE DONALD RUMSFELD OR DICK CHENEY.."

"AN HONEST BROKER?"

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PAGE 03 MANILA 02064 01 OF 03 160738Z
IN THE INDEPENDENT "MANILA TIMES" (04/16), COLUMNIST FEDERICO PASCUAL WROTE: "THE PROBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES MEDIATING THE WAR IN THE HOLY LAND IS HOW TO CONVINCE EVERYBODY OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL THAT IT IS AN HONEST BROKER THAT IS NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE JEWISH STATE.. WE ARE NOW BEING TREATED TO THE SPECTACLE OF THE U.S. TELLING PALESTINE TO STOP ITS `TERROR ATTACKS WHILE SIMPLY ASKING ISRAEL TO TEMPER ITS RESPONSES. .THE WORLD SHOULD PONDER WHY SOME PALESTINIANS.WOULD BE MOTIVATED ENOUGH TO BLOW THEMSELVES UP AS SACRIFICIAL HUMAN BOMBS. UNTIL THE DEEP ROOT OF THIS GRIEVANCE IS WRENCHED OUT, THE SUICIDE ATTACKS, CALLED TERRORISM IN WASHINGTON, WILL CONTINUE TO CLAIM MORE INNOCENT VICTIMS."

"SHARON'S TURN"

THE EDITORIAL OF THE INDEPENDENT "TODAY" (04/16) SAID: ".SINCE.ARAFAT HAS ALREADY ISSUED A STATEMENT.CONDEMNING TERRORISM AGAINST CIVILIANS.IT IS THE TURN OF.SHARON TO ISSUE A STATEMENT.DISAVOWING THE PERENNIAL ISRAELI FINAL SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM: WHICH IS THEIR FINAL SUBJUGATION INTO A NEGRO CLASS ON THE PATTERN OF APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA.. THE PALESTINIANS WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT. .THE ISRAELIS HAVE TRIED TO DISSUADE THEM WITH A PANOPLY OF STATE-OF-THE-ART KILLING MACHINES, BUT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE LIMITS OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY ARE EASILY DRAWN BY PERSONAL COURAGE.."

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: "AS ARAFAT MADE HIS STATEMENT,
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PAGE 04 MANILA 02064 01 OF 03 160738Z
IT IS NOW THE TURN OF SHARON TO DISAVOW THE ISRAELI
FINAL SOLUTION UNLESS HE AND HIS AMERICAN ALLY -- THE
REST OF THE WORLD IS AGAINST THEM -- ARE PREPARED TO
FACE MORE STATEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN POLITICAL
DETERMINATION."

"UNPROMISING OUTCOMES"

COLUMNIST ALEX MAGNO WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT "MANILA
STANDARD" (04/16): "OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS,
.SECRETARY.POWELL HAS MET WITH ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN
LEADERS TO WORK OUT A PLAN FOR DE-ESCALATING THE
SITUATION. BUT THE OUTCOMES HAVE NOT BEEN PROMISING.
BOTH.SHARON AND.ARAFAT HAVE MAINTAINED STUBBORN
POSITIONS. WHILE IT MAY TAKE MUCH MORE EFFORT TO
UNWIND THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PALESTINE, THERE IS
LITTLE INDICATION THAT THE CONFLICT COULD WIDEN. THE
REST OF THE ARAB WORLD APPEARS RELUCTANT TO GET
INVOLVED IN THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND HAVE SIGNED
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO YIELD TO U.S.-LED BROKERING
BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING LEADERS. FOR ITS PART, THE
U.S. HAS TONED DOWN ITS RHETORIC AGAINST IRAQI
PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02064 02 OF 03 160739Z
ACTION INR-00

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TENSIONS IN THE REGION FROM RISING FURTHER."

"CEASEFIRE UNLIKELY"

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02064 02 OF 03 160739Z
MAX SOLIVEN, PUBLISHER OF THE INDEPENDENT "PHILIPPINE
STAR" (04/16), WROTE IN HIS COLUMN IN THE SAME PAPER:
".MR. BUSH AND HIS OVERWORKED SECRETARY OF STATE ARE
DOING A LOT OF DESPERATE BROKEN FIELD RUNNING IN A LATE-
GAME 'CATCH-UP' ATTEMPT TO SCORE A TOUCHDOWN.. BUSH,
WHO REALLY DISLIKES.ARAFAT., HAS BEEN FORCED TO CHANGE
TACK VIRTUALLY IN MID-STREAM AND DISPATCHED POWEL TO
VISIT ARAFAT.."

SOLIVEN WROTE FURTHER: "WE CAN ADMIRE POWELL FOR
SAILING THROUGH THE UNCOMFORTABLE DIALOGUE WITH
ARAFAT.. POWELL HAS BEEN ASSIGNED WITH A TIGHT-ROPE
TASK OF SCOLDING BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS
IN TONES OF EQUAL CENSURE.AND THUS FAR HE'S CARRIED IT
OFF.. BUT CAN HE BRING ABOUT AN 'CEASEFIRE'? NOT VERY
LIKELY. .THERE IS TOO MUCH BLOOD ON THE GROUND. THERE
IS BITTERNESS AND HATRED EVERYWHERE. THERE IS MUTUAL
TREACHERY AND DECEPTION. HOW CAN THERE BE A CEASEFIRE
AT THIS HARSH STAGE? .ONLY A 'MIRACLE' CAN BRING EVEN
A 'SHORT TIME' PEACE ABOUT."

"POWELL'S EFFORTS"

OSCAR VILLADOLID, FORMER PHILIPPINE ENVOY TO THE
VATICAN, WROTE IN HIS COLUMN IN THE INDEPENDENT
"BUSINESS WORLD" (04/16): ".THE VOLATILITY OF THE
SITUATION IN THE REGION AND THE HIGHLY CHARGED
EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE ARAB AND MUSLIM WORLD IS
DEFINITELY WORKING AGAINST POWELL'S EFFORTS. .THE
UNITED NATIONS SHOULD SEND IMMEDIATELY A SECURITY FORCE
TO BRING SOME ORDER TO THE AREA. .THERE IS AN URGENCY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANILA 02064 02 OF 03 160739Z
TO END THE KILLINGS BROUGHT ABOUT BY RACIAL AND
RELIGIOUS HATRED IN THAT EXPLOSIVE AREA OF THE WORLD.
THE ALTERNATIVE IS AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE THAT MIGHT
TRIGGER OFF A WORLD WAR."

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VENEZUELA
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"THE NERVE"

THE EDITORIAL OF THE INDEPENDENT AND LIBERAL "TODAY" (04/16) SAID: "HUGO CHAVEZ.IS BACK IN THE PALACE IN CARACAS, AND PEDRO CARMONA.IS OUT ON THE STREETS AGAIN -- THOUGH NOT FOR LONG BECAUSE.CARMONA WOULD SOON BE INDICTED FOR TREASON.. WITH THAT SWIFT AND SINGULAR ACT SHOWING THAT REAL POWER CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH THE PURCHASING POWER OF EITHER THE BUSINESS CLASS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, AN OUSTED PRESIDENT.THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE CLARIFIED THE OBSCURE AND BAFFLING ISSUE AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTE REAL PEOPLE POWER AND WHAT IS NOT. SIMPLE. PEOPLE POWER IS THE POWER OF THE GREATER NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE BALLS TO GO OUT ON THE STREETS AND SHOW THOSE SPHERES IN THE TEETH OF THE MILITARY BACKED PRETENSIONS OF, ALL THINGS, PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT MEMBERSHIP IN A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AMOUNTS.TO A MANDATE.TO HOST LUNCHEONS WITH TIRED SPEAKERS. BRAVO VENEZUELA! CARMONA AND HIS MILITARY AND CIVIL-SOCIETY BACKERS SHOULD BE SHOT."

"AN EMBARRASSMENT"

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PAGE 04 MANILA 02064 02 OF 03 160739Z

IN A COLUMN ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, INDAY ESPINA-VARONA WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT "MANILA TIMES" (04/16): "YOU REMEMBER CHAVEZ, GEORGIE? PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ, CHIEF OF STATE OF AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, AND ONE ELECTED IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER, WAS ARRESTED LAST WEEK BY A SMALL CABAL OF GENERALS AND TAKEN TO AN ISLAND. .IN CASE YOUR ADVISERS HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET.THE U.S. SIGNED LAST YEAR A NEW DEMOCRACY CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. IT SAYS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD ACT STRONGLY AGAINST MILITARY COUPS. ALL OAS MEMBERS CONDEMNED THE VENEZUELAN COUP AND REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT -- ALL BUT ONE - THE U.S... DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID, GEORGIE? IT AIN'T A COUP. IT AIN'T A COUP BECAUSE HE DESERVES IT. HE DESERVES IT BECAUSE I, GEORGIE, DON'T LIKE HIS MUG AND HIS PALS. AND BECAUSE UNCLE OTTO REICH SAYS HE'S BAD.. SPELL VENEZUELA AGAIN. .TEN YEARS FROM DOWN THE ROAD.THAT WORD IS GOING TO BE AN EMBARRASSMENT."

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U.S. TROOPS IN RP

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02064 03 OF 03 160739Z
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"JOMA'S OFFENSIVE"

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02064 03 OF 03 160739Z
THE EDITORIAL OF THE INDEPENDENT "MALAYA" (04/16)
COMMENTED ON REPORTS THAT JOSE MA. ("JOMA") SISON,
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES, HAS
ORDERED THE CPP'S MILITARY ARM, THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY,
TO ATTACK U.S. SERVICEMEN PARTICIPATING IN JOINT
MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE EDITORIAL
SAID: "WE WELCOME SISON'S DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST
THE AMERICANS. THE COMMUNIST REBELS HAVE LONG BEEN
PREYING ON DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS. THIS TIME THEY'VE
BEEN ORDERED TO PICK ON PEOPLE WHO CAN DEFEND
THEMSELVES. LET'S SEE HOW JOMA'S MEN WILL FARE IN A
PASSAGE OF ARMS WITH THESE GENTLEMEN."

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"THE REAL ENEMY"

FORMER EDUCATION SECRETARY ALEJANDRO ROCES, IN HIS COLUMN IN THE INDEPENDENT "PHILIPPINE STAR" (04/16), WROTE: "IN FAIRNESS, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT THE ONLY GROUP THAT IS OBJECTING TO THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS. BUT THE OTHERS ARE SEEKING AN AMICABLE SOLUTION. IT IS ONLY THE CPP THAT HAS ORDERED AN ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THAT IN ITSELF WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM; IT WILL DEFINITELY ANTAGONIZE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE REAL ENEMY IS NOT THE ABU SAYYAF, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OR THE AMERICAN TROOPS. IT IS POVERTY. AND THERE IS NO VIOLENT SOLUTION TO EVEN THAT PROBLEM."

RICCIARDONE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 02064 03 OF 03 160739Z

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